



**U. S. Department of Justice**

***United States Attorney  
Middle District of Georgia***

*Post Office Box 1702  
Macon, Georgia 31202*

*Phone: 478-752-3511  
Fax: 478-621-2604*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
APRIL 13, 2005**

**CONTACT: SUE MCKINNEY**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Macon:** Maxwell Wood, the United States Attorney for the Middle District of Georgia announced today, that on April 13, 2005, JOSEPH JEROME PERKINS entered a plea of guilty to one count of making a false claim in violation of Title 18, United States, Section 287, and one count of aiding and assisting in the preparation and presentation of a false and fraudulent return, that is, false statements, in violation of Title 26, United States Code, Section 7206(2).

The defendant will be sentenced on a date to be determined before the Honorable Wilbur D. Owens, Jr., Judge of the United States District Court for the Middle District of Georgia. The charge of false claims carries a possible maximum sentence of five (5) years imprisonment, and/or a possible maximum fine of \$250,000. False statements carries a possible maximum sentence of three (3) years imprisonment, and/or a fine of up to \$250,000.00.

Perkins prepared taxes from his residence in Montezuma, Macon County, Georgia, for numerous clients in a three county area, concentrating principally in the cities of Byromville, Marshallville, Montezuma, and Oglethorpe. He charged his clients an up front tax preparation fee, usually \$50.00, and a portion of the refund. The majority of fraudulent tax returns prepared by Perkins included the use of false filing status, fraudulent dependants, false wages, and/or fabricated Scheduled C businesses, in order to qualify the taxpayer for an Earned Income Credit. The tax loss for the thirty-two (32) count indictment was approximately \$95,431.00.

United States Attorney Wood stated, "those who put their trust in Mr. Perkins have been victimized by his devious acts and we are grateful to bring this case to a resolution before anyone else falls prey to such activities".

The investigation was conducted by the Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation Division. The prosecution was handled by Assistant United States Attorney Harry J. Fox, Jr.

Any questions concerning this matter should be addressed to Sue McKinney, Public Affairs Specialist, United States Attorney's Office, at (478) 621-2602.

**APPROVED FOR RELEASE**

  
**MAXWELL WOOD  
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY**